

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A polymer composition₁ which comprises at least one ~~at least~~ semicrystalline polymer having no ionic groups₁ ~~and comprises~~ at least one compound with plasticizing properties,

and ~~which~~

~~comprises~~ 0.1 to 30% by weight of ionic liquid₁ as plasticizer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1,
which

comprises ~~from~~ 0.5 to 25% by weight of ionic liquid.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
which

comprises at least one thermoplastically processable polymer₁ selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ (co)polyamides, (co)polyesters, polyurethanes, polyphenylene ethers, polyolefins, (co)polyetheramides, polyaramides, polyether(ether)ketones, and polyetheresteramides.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~,

which

comprises at least one crosslinked, or at least one crosslinkable, polymer selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ (co)polyamides, (co)polyesters, polyurethanes, and polyphenylene ethers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at ~~least one of claims 1 to 4,~~

wherein

the polymer is linear or branched.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at ~~least one of claims 1 to 5,~~

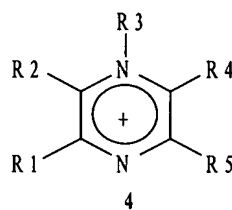
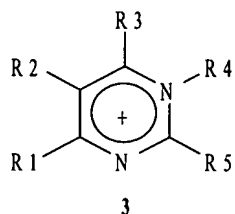
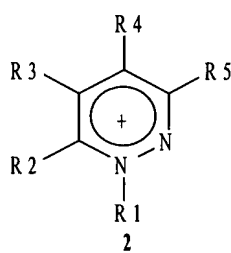
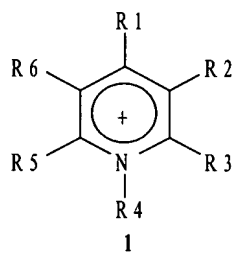
which

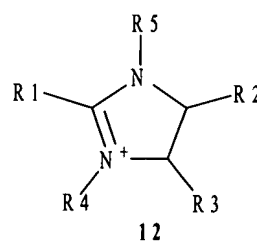
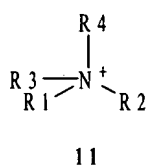
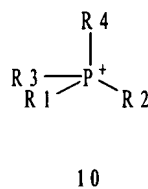
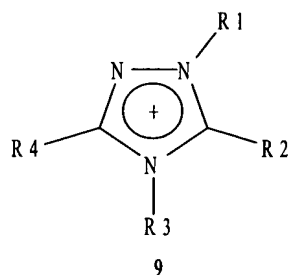
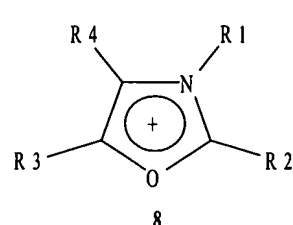
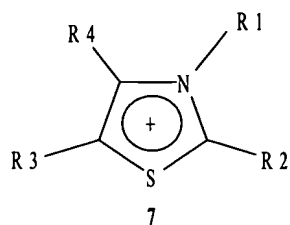
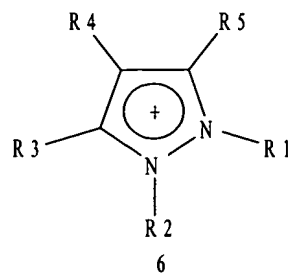
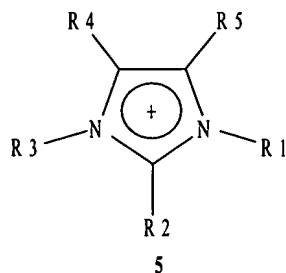
comprises at least one polymer mixture and/or at least one polymer blend.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at ~~least one of claims 1 to 6,~~

wherein

the ionic liquid is a salt having a cation of the following structures:





where R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 are identical or different, and are hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more heteroatoms (oxygen, NH, NCH₃), or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more functionalities, selected from the group -O-C(O)-, -(O)C-O-, NH-C(O)-, -(O)C-NH, -(CH₃)N-C(O)-, -(O)C-N(CH₃)-, -S(O)₂-O-, -O-S(O)₂-,

-S(O)₂-NH-, -NH-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(CH₃)-, -N(CH₃)-S(O)₂-, or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, terminally functionalized by -OH, -NH₂, or -N(H)CH₃, or are a polyether of formula -(R⁷-O)_n-R⁸, having block or random structure, where R⁷ is a linear or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n = from 1 to 30, and R⁸ is hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, or a -C(O)-R⁹ radical, where R⁹ is a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms; and having an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, phosphate, halophosphates, alkylated phosphates, nitrate, sulfate, hydrogensulfate, alkyl sulfates, aryl sulfates, perfluorinated alkyl sulfates, perfluorinated aryl sulfates, sulfonate, alkylsulfonates, arylsulfonates, perfluorinated alkyl- and arylsulfonates, perchlorate, tetrachloroaluminate, tetrafluoroborate, alkylated borates, tosylate, saccharinate, alkyl carboxylates, and bis(perfluoroalkylsulfonyl)amide anions; or is a mixture of two or more of these salts.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at ~~least one of claims 1 to 7,~~

wherein

the ionic liquid contains a halogen-free anion, selected from the group consisting of phosphate, alkyl phosphates, nitrate, sulfate, alkyl sulfates, aryl sulfates, sulfonate, alkylsulfonates, arylsulfonates, alkyl borates, tosylate, saccharinate, and alkyl carboxylates.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at
~~least one of claims 1 to 8,~~

wherein

the ionic liquid of the polymer composition contains various anions.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at
~~least one of claims 1 to 9,~~

which

has microbicidal properties.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at
~~least one of claims 1 to 10,~~

which

has antistatic properties.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 at
~~least one of claims 1 to 11,~~

which

has a glass transition temperature, measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), which is lower by up to 18K₁ than that of a polymer comprising no ionic liquid.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a polymer composition, which comprises at least one polymer having no ionic groups, ~~and comprises~~ at least one compound with plasticizing properties, and ~~where the polymer composition comprises from~~ 0.1 to 30% by weight of ionic liquid, as plasticizer,

said process comprising ~~which comprises~~
first bringing an ionic liquid into contact with a polymeric component of the polymer composition, and then dispersing the ionic liquid in the polymer composition.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13,
wherein
the a polymer composition, as claimed in claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ is prepared.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13 ~~or 14,~~
wherein
the dispersion of the ionic liquid in the polymer composition takes place by means of
a mixing process.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13 ~~at least one of~~
~~claims 13 to 15,~~
wherein
the ionic liquid is brought into contact with, and thoroughly mixed with, a molten
phase of the polymeric component.

Claim 17 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 16,
wherein
the mixing of the components of the polymer composition is carried out in a single- or
twin-screw kneader, the polymeric component being molten.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13 ~~at least one of~~
~~claims 13 to 15~~,

wherein

the ionic liquid is brought into contact with a solid phase of the polymeric component,
and thoroughly mixed after melting.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13 ~~or 14~~,

wherein

the dispersion of the ionic liquid in the polymer composition takes place by means of
diffusion.

Claim 20 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 19,

wherein

the preparation takes place by means of impregnation of polymer powders by an ionic
liquid.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13 ~~at least one of~~
~~claims 13 to 15~~,

wherein

~~use is made of~~ at least one polymer and/or one ionic liquid is dissolved in a solvent.

Claim 22 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 21,

wherein

the solvent is removed by a thermal separation process from a precursor of the
polymer composition.

Claim 23 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 21,
wherein
the solvent is removed from a precursor of the polymer composition by precipitation
of the polymer composition.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~The use of a polymer~~
~~composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12, or of a polymer composition prepared by a~~
~~process as claimed in any of claims 13 to 23, as a~~ hot-melt adhesive, an adhesion promoter, a
binder, a filler material, a packaging material, a compatibilizer for preparing polymer blends,
an agent modifying viscosity and/or solubility in polymer mixtures or polymer compositions,
~~or for the production of an unsupported film films, a supported film films, a coating coatings,~~
a membrane membranes, or a molding moldings, where shaping takes place by means of
injection molding, extrusion, or blow molding,
said process comprising contacting the polymer composition of claim 1 with one or
more additives.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A hot-melt adhesive comprising the ~~a~~ polymer
composition as claimed in claim 1, and one additives ~~at least one of claims 1 to 12, or~~
~~comprising a polymer composition prepared by a process as claimed in any of claims 13 to~~
~~23.~~

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A binder, comprising the ~~a~~ polymer composition as
claimed in claim 1, and one or more fillers ~~at least one of claims 1 to 12, or comprising a~~
~~polymer composition prepared by a process as claimed in any of claims 13 to 23.~~

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A sports product, comprising the a polymer
composition as claimed in claim 1, and one or more additional polymers ~~at least one of~~
~~claims 1 to 12, or comprising a polymer composition prepared by a process as claimed in any~~
~~of claims 13 to 23.~~